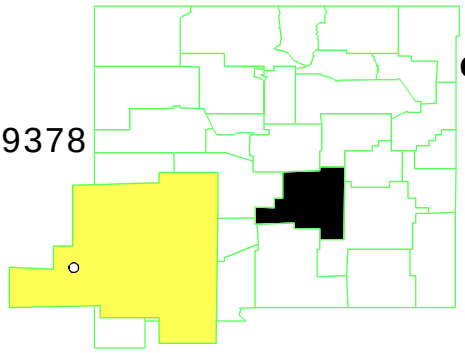
CIMARRON MINING CORP.

NEW MEXICO

EPA ID# NMD980749378



EPA REGION 6

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 02

Lincoln County

Carrizozo

Updated 3/25/97

Site Description

Location:
- The first Operable Unit (OU) is on Highway 380 in Carrizozo.
- The second OU ("Sierra Blanca") is approximately one mile south of the first OU.

Population:
- Approximately 1,000 people obtain drinking water from 29 municipal wells within 3 miles of the site.

Setting:
- The nearest municipal well is about 2 miles away from the Cimarron Mining Corp. area and 1/2 mile from the Sierra Blanca mill area.
- Wells also are used to irrigate food crops.
- Operable Unit 1 (OU1) location covers approximately 10 acres, and operated as a mill extracting gold with cyanide.
- Operable Unit 2 (OU2) covers about 7 acres, and operated as a mill that recovered precious metals using a flotation process.

Hydrology: The site is underlaid by quaternary alluvium and bolson deposits, in turn, underlaid by & Cretaceous Mesa Verde and Mancos Shale Formations.

Wastes and Volumes

- The principal pollutants at the site include cyanide in ground water up to 4,330 parts per billion (ppb) at Operable Unit 1, and lead in soils and sediments up to 18,000 parts per million (ppm) at Operable Unit 2.
- Waste volumes are approximately 500,000 gallons of contaminated shallow ground water at OU1, and about 1,000 cubic yards of contaminated soils and sediments at OU2.

Site Assessment and Ranking

NPL LISTING HISTORY

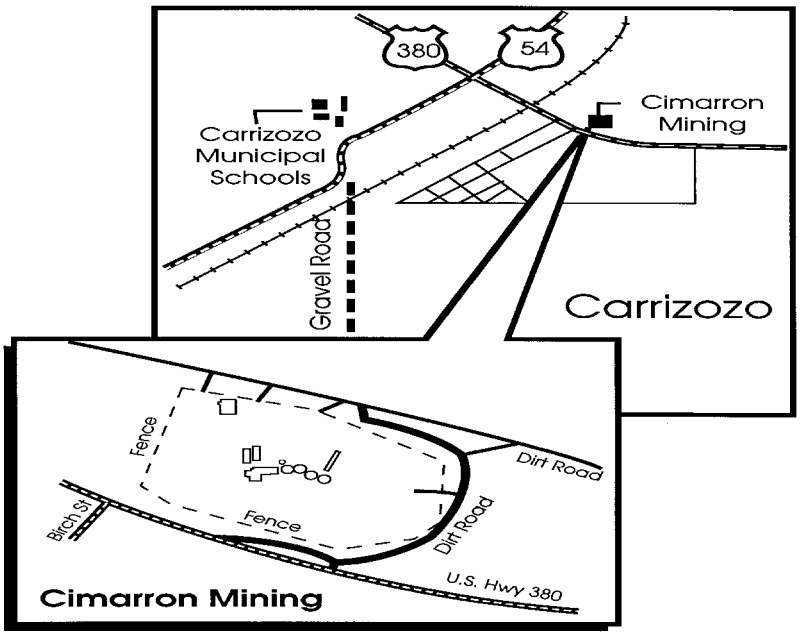
Site HRS Score: 38.93

Proposed Date: 6/24/88

Final Date: 10/04/89

NPL Update: No. 7

Site Map and Diagram



The Remediation Process

Site History:

- The site operated from 1979 to 1982 using cyanide salts and metal strippers to extract gold from ore brought to the site.
- The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) sent a certified Notice of Violation letter to Cimarron Mining Corp. on 6/22/82 for a non-permitted discharge.
- Cimarron filed for bankruptcy in 7/83.
- During an NMED-lead site inspection in May and June 1984, cyanide and heavy metals were detected in ground water, soils and mill tailings.
- In August 1987, EPA Emergency Response constructed a fence and posted warning signs to alert nearby community of contaminated site conditions.
- EPA began the remedial investigation and feasibility study (RI/FS) in 3/89.
- The "Sierra Blanca" property, a former processing area related to site operation, was incorporated into the site response actions in 1/90 as OU2.
- July 1991 - May 1992, equipment was decontaminated and high hazard material was contained in mixing vats, tanks, and troughs. The contained waste was then consolidated and staged, overpacked on site, then disposed off site.

Health Considerations:

- Potential for deeper drinking water aquifer contamination at OU1, and for ingestion of lead-contaminated soils at OU2.

Record of Decision

Signed: September 21, 1990 (OU1)
Signed: September 6, 1991 (OU2)

Ground Water (OU1):

- The Record of Decision (ROD) for the OU1 called for extraction of shallow ground water and discharge to the publicly owned treatment works (POTW).

Soil Treatment (OU2):

- This ROD called for solidification and stabilization of contaminated soils and waste piles exceeding 500 ppm lead, with on site disposal.

Other Remedies Considered	Reason Not Chosen
----------GROUND WATER (OU1)----------	
1. No Action	**Not Protective**
2. Institutional Controls	**No treatment; not protective**
3. Pump and evaporate ground water	**Not cost-effective in the long term**
4. Pump, treat and recharge ground water	**Not cost-effective in the long term**
----------GROUND WATER (OU2)----------	
1. No Action	**Not protective**
2. Institutional Controls	**No treatment, not protective**
3. Cement Solidification/Off-site Municipal Landfill	**Not cost-effective in the long term**
4. Off-site Municipal/Hazardous Landfill	**Not cost-effective in the long term**

Community Involvement

- Community Involvement Plan: Developed 4/89, revised 1991.
- Open houses and workshops: 9/88, 5/89, 3/90, 7/90, numerous other informal meetings.
- Original Proposed Plan Fact Sheet and Public Meeting: 7/30/90 (OU1), 6/17/91 (OU2).
- Original ROD Fact Sheet: 10/90 (OU1), 9/91 (OU2).
- Milestone Fact Sheets: 5/89, 3/90.
- Citizens on site mailing list: 83
- Constituency Interest:
  - Medium interest by the community.
  - Most citizens and officials do not feel any significant health threats exist at the site.
- Site Repository: Carrizozo City Hall, 100 Fifth Street, Carrizozo, NM 88301

Technical Assistance Grant

- Availability Notice: 1/89
- Letters of Intent Received: None
- Final Application Received: None
- Grant Award: N/A
- Current Status: No apparent interest by citizens in applying for the grant.

Fiscal and Program Management

- **Remedial Project Manager:** Greg Lyssy (EPA) 214-665-8317, Mail Code: 6SF-LT
- **State Contact:** George Schuman, 505/827-0072
- **Community Involvement Coordinator:** Olivia Balandrán (EPA) 214-665-6584, Mail Code: 6SF-P
- **Attorney:** Keith Smith (EPA) 214-665-2157, Mail Code: 6SF-DL
- **State Coordinator:** Joe Massey (EPA) 214-665-7408, Mail Code: 6SF-LN
- **Prime Contractor:** Camp, Dresser & McKee

Cost Recovery: EPA (Fund) Lead

- PRPs Identified: 2 (for OU1)
- Viable PRP: None
- In 2/89, Potentially Responsible Parties declined to respond to Special Notice Letters.
- EPA submitted waiver of special notice procedures for remedial design and remedial action (RD/RA) on 1/3/91.
- Trust fund to conduct RD/RA for OU1 and OU2.

Present Status and Issues

- Constructing a fence to limit access, extracting and treating ground water, and cleaning up contaminated soils have reduced the threats to the public and the environment at the Cimarron Mining Corp. site.
- The RA started at the Cimarron OU on 8-13-91; all work is completed. The site wells have been installed and water is being pumped and treated.
- The Sierra Blanca OU RA was initiated on 12-20-91.
- Scope of Work has been prepared to address outstanding work at Sierra Blanca OU 2, on May 22, 1996. Funding for additional work became available in March 1997. Work at Siera Blanca will begin in July 1997.

Benefits

- Drinking water for 1,000 residents drawn from public and private wells within three miles of the site will be protected from site contaminants.
- 500,000 gallons of shallow contaminated ground water, and 1,000 cubic yards of contaminated soils and sediments will be remediated.
- Some interest has been expressed in redeveloping the Carrizozo portion of the site for metals processing. No permanent plans have been proposed at this time.